

PENSION POINTERS.

Inquiries Answered and Suggestions Made.

All communications for this column should be accompanied by the true name and correct address of the inquirer. The reply, however, will be given to anonymous inquiries. If no reply is printed within three weeks, write again.

J. J. V. Rockview, W. Va.—As the present Administration continues to construe the act of June 27, 1890, in substantially the same manner as it was construed by the last Administration, and under which construction many invalid pensioners under the act of 1890 were reduced or dropped from the pension roll, it is in many cases impossible to secure the restoration of the pension or of the former rate. But the lapse of time has in many instances brought with it increased disability so as to make it impossible to obtain a higher rate, even under present holdings. S. B. L. Crescent, Minn.—The act of March 3, 1891, contains the following: "And provided further, That hereafter no pension shall be allowed or paid to any officer, non-commissioned officer, or private in the Army, Navy, or Marine Corps of the United States, either on the active or retired list."

G. B., Princeton, Ind.—The act of March 3, 1895, provided: "Sec. 4. And be it further enacted, That every pensioner who is an officer, private or other person who has been, or shall hereafter be, discharged from the Army of the United States by reason of wounds received in battle, or skirmish, on picket, or in action, or in the line of duty, shall be entitled to receive

of title to widow's pension under the general law.

W. K., Boston, Mass.—Invalid pension under both the general law and the act of June 27, 1890, commences from the date of filing of the application. The act of March 6, 1896, intended to insure the commencement of invalid pension under the act of 1890 from the date of filing of the first application therefor, is so construed as to be practically a nullity.

J. T. G., Olney, Ill.—The Board of Pension Appeals of the Interior Department has five or six months in arrears with its work. Additional evidence or any explanatory affidavits may be filed in a rejected pension claim before an appeal is taken, as well as after an adverse decision has been rendered on the appeal. There is no way of determining what the decision of the Department might be in an appealed case. As the general tendency of the decisions rendered during the past six months has been liberal, an unfavorable decision should not be a surprise.

J. N. M., Bucyrus, O.—Rejected pension cases appealed to the Secretary of the Interior are generally considered independently of each other. If a case is found that is identical with one already previously considered, the second case would probably be disposed of briefly with a reference to the decision in the other case.

G. B. D., Newport, Ind.—All increases of pension drawn under the act of June 27, 1890, commence from the date of favorable medical examination. It is held that there is no such thing as a "new disability" arising under the act of 1890. The attorney's fee is \$2.

A. T., Huron, Ind.—A pensioner removing to another part of the country need not necessarily have his pension transferred from one pension agency to another. A pensioner's name may be held, executed, for as long as three years. On failure to draw for three years, a pensioner's name is dropped from the roll.

THE GRAND ARMY.

What Veterans Are Doing for the Good of the Order.

Commander-in-Chief J. P. S. Gobin has issued General Orders, No. 6, from National Headquarters, Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pa. The Grand Army of the Republic gladly and lovingly accepted the duty of paying tribute to the memory of our dead comrades of the war, and in accordance with the custom and requirements of our Order, the Commander-in-Chief directs attention to the coming Memorial Day, May 30, 1898. He says:

"On Memorial Day the Grand Army of the Republic presents to the world the evidence of our devotion to our comrades, our love for our country and our gratitude to Almighty God for the blessings we enjoy. On that day the Nation honors the memory of the men who through divine guidance were instrumental in preserving the Nation and securing to us as a people the blessings of liberty and National unity."

"Since last Memorial Day many comrades who were with us then have answered the last roll call of earth and will no longer be found in our ranks or in our Post rooms. The tribute of love and reverence they have paid to others, we shall hereafter pay to them. Upon the soldier's 'windless palace of rest' let us in tenderness and love strew the flowers of our dead comrades of the war, and let us as citizens of the Nation pay our tribute in a sincerity and earnestness that will teach the world that the American citizen firmly fixed in the hearts of an appreciative people. May the tribute to the memory of our heroic dead and the presence of the living defenders of the Republic form the link between the achievements of the past, the security of the present, and the hope of the future."

THE RELIEF CORPS.

News and Gossip of the Great Auxiliary.

The President of the W. R. C. has formally tendered the services of the organization to the President, in case of war, promising to do all that women could do in the case of the sick and wounded or to care for the dependent ones of those who are fighting for the flag.

Arrangements for the 16th National Convention are going on busily and prosperously, and everything promises a very successful season of work and pleasure. In recent General Orders, it is stated that National Headquarters will be established at "The Grand," and that members desiring to secure rooms there should address D. M. Shears, Vice-President and Manager.

On April 19 and 20, National President Martin visited the Department of Kansas and installed the new officers. Kansas has a membership of over 6,000, and the reports show not one Corps suspended. Mrs. Julia Campbell, of Hutchinson, was elected President.

On April 26 and 27, the National President visited the Department Convention of West Virginia and installed the new officers. The convention was held at Huntington. The West Virginians are a little band of earnest, devoted workers who are very proud of their Department. Reports showed careful and conscientious work done. Mrs. Helen Lavalley, of Huntington, was elected President.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT.—The month of April has been a busy one for the Illinois Department officers. Three Corps have been organized—McHenry, 128, a new Corps at Amboy, and another at Bridgeport, making 15 Corps which have been added to Illinois roster under the able administration of Department President, Miss Jennie Bross.

A reception and banquet was tendered Department Commander A. L. Schimpy, G. A. R. and Department President Jennie Bross, at Peoria, April 29, by the G. A. R., W. R. C., and S. V. of that local city. Chicago Posts and Corps will tender a reception to the same popular officers on the evening of May 7, at the Sherman House, Chicago.

The dedicatory exercises of the new Corps of Joliet, has furnished a room at the W. R. C. Home at Wilmington. America Corps, 31, Chicago, held a memorial service in memory of Frances E. Ward, April 20, which was largely attended, many from other cities being present. Miss Willard was a member of America Corps.

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ALL ALONG THE LINE.—Corps 6, Monmouth, Ill., celebrated its 15th anniversary, April 6, in a very happy fashion. The ladies gave a supper and

had the Grand Army men for their guests.

Mrs. Addie Reed, the Corps President, was Mistress of Ceremonies, and patriotic music and short speeches made the time pass very pleasantly.—Melissa Williams, Secretary.

Garfield Corps, 26, of Montezuma, Wash., gave a very successful art and loan exhibition, realizing the sum of \$24 for their funds, besides having a pleasant and instructive evening. The exhibit included old hand-woven linen and bedspreads, some 100-year old china; memorials of our civil war, including a sword and knife captured on the field of battle, specimens of our old-time fractional currency, and a splinter from the Kearsarge. A copy of the (Uster County (N. Y.) Gazette of 1860, containing a notice of the death of Gen. Washington, was of special interest. Besides the exhibit there was a program of music, tableaux and recitations, and to end all, light refreshments. It proved a very satisfactory evening.

LOYAL HOME WORKERS.

Notes About the Members of the Association and Their Doings.

Memorial Day.

To Emma K. Martin. Step softly, step gently, Beadle the mossy laurel. Bring laurels, bring roses, To crown each soldier's head. Sleep sweetly, sleep silently, Ye heroes true and brave, While Stars and Stripes float proudly Above each patriot's grave.

Teach patriotism and heroism To sons and daughters true, And each Memorial Day bring flowers To deck the gray and blue.

—Glad M. Kepner, Clarinda, Iowa.

Dear L. H. W. Friends: When war seems to be the only thing, our kind Secretary has written a short article which reminds us of nature and the beauties of Spring as it is with us now. While reading I came across the following, which shows us how great men sometimes worship, and caused me to send it.

Henry Ward Beecher had the soul simplicity that was his surprise to see Henry in his power in one little scene is portrayed for us by Judge Tourgee. Mr. Tourgee tells us that one glorious Autumn day while hunting in the mountains near the Hudson, he lost his way, and hearing a sudden noise in an adjoining thicket, he feared that it might be some wild animal which had a home on the left mountain-top, and hid himself beneath a tangle of underbrush and vines.

As he watched and waited for the intruder great was his surprise to see Henry Ward Beecher appear. Mr. Beecher carried wild flowers and Autumn leaves in his hands; these he laid tenderly upon a rock and then turned to survey the beautiful scene. Before Mr. Tourgee had summoned enough courage to come forward and announce himself, he being at the time a youth, Mr. Beecher bared his head, knelt down and voiced such a prayer as the unknown listener had never heard. A prayer of thanksgiving to the Author of all Good, for the birds and the flowers, the clouds and the sunshine, the mountains and the valleys, for friendship and friends, for the love of God and man.—M. Rose Jansen.

PUZZLES AND QUERIES.

Some Problems Which are Really Worth While Working Out.

Questions. (Third Series.)

31. When were nails first made by machinery?—Reader.

32. What would be the physical effects produced if the earth ceased to revolve about the sun?—Reader.

33. How is the weight of the earth ascertained?—Teacher.

34. In view of the questions concerning the Mississippi River and the fact that the river's mouth is three or more miles farther from the center of the earth than its source, the question arises, Does water ever run up hill?—Teacher.

35. What is understood by "up" and "down"?—Teacher.

36. What is the difference between an "atom" and a "molecule"?—Teacher.

37. What is the highest point in the United States?—Teacher.

38. What is point (dry land) farthest below sea level?—Teacher.

39. Why is the Tortugas chain of islands of strategic value?—Teacher.

40. How does cannon powder differ from ordinary powder?—Teacher.

Answers. (Second Series.)

Mr. A. W. Slayton, Grand Rapids, Mich., rises to a point of order. In the 69th question, for some reason to the compositor and proof-reader best known, aluminum was spelled "alluminum." Mr. Slayton noted the error in his answer, but this time the aforesaid c. and p. r. corrected the spelling cited by Mr. Slayton from "alluminum" to "aluminum." A. S. Slayton says:

"My answer was: 'There is no such thing as aluminum.' The published answer drops out an 'l' and thus takes me a term I declared non-existent. Aluminum is the right name for the metal sometimes called 'aluminum,' but never 'aluminum.'"

Personally the editor prefers "aluminum," but "aluminum" is also correct; "alluminum" unquestionably incorrect.

Mr. Slayton sends answers to queries 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, all of which are correct. "Reader" sends two questions, appearing below the motion of the hands of clock face up. In the Southern Hemisphere the motion is in same direction as the clock hands, we are told.—A. W. Slayton.

The whirl of rotary storms in the Southern Hemisphere is from left to right; in the Northern Hemisphere it is from right to left. In the torrid zone they move in a westerly direction; in the temperate zones the direction is eastward, being generally northeast in the Northern Hemisphere, and southeast in the Southern Hemisphere.—H. Heizer.

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84. Salt is a compound of 35.5 parts by weight (one atom) of chlorine, a greenish gas of choking smell, with 23 parts by weight (one atom) of sodium, a silvery-white, soft, light metal. Together these widely different substances make the familiar salt.

85. Kainite, used in making fertilizers, is a compound salt of potassium chloride and sodium sulphate, obtained from the refuse at salt-works in this country, and from the salt mines of Stassfurt, in Prussian Saxony.—A. W. Slayton.

86. The continents elevate the bordering waters slightly by the attraction of the heavier, higher, solid land and rock.—A. W. Slayton.

87. The so-called coral insect is not an insect, but a polyp or zoophyte, an invertebrate animal, a radiate, the lowest order of visible animal beings. There are many species, and generally each individual consists of a minute sack with one end open and surrounded by tentacles or arms, long or short, which are used to catch food. This opening might be called the mouth, and the sack, the stomach, and it is all there is of the animal, except that the other end of the sack is attached to the solid substance left from his 1st while living; and we pluck it from the bottom of the sea and have beautiful corals.—A. W. Slayton.

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